

COMMENDING THE ABBOT SHI  
YONGXIN OF THE SHAO LIN  
MONASTERY IN CHINA

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on November 15th Abbot Shi Yongxin of the Shao Lin Temple in China visited Washington, DC to meet with Members of Congress and other U.S. Government officials. I had the privilege to meet this remarkable man and his traveling companions all of whom are expert practitioners of a specialized form of the martial arts commonly known as Kung Fu.

The Abbot leads one of the most ancient and most respected monasteries of its type in China, where he and his colleagues teach a synergistic philosophy based on the Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist traditions. Thousands of Americans have traveled to the Shao Lin Temple over the years in order to advance their spiritual lives; and upon their return to the United States shared what they learned with their friends, family, and neighbors. I firmly believe that these types of person-to-person exchanges are and rightly ought to be a critical component of our foreign policy strategy. These types of exchanges inevitably break down old stereotypes and foster deeper understanding between the United States and other countries. Although my conversation with Abbot Shi Yongxin was all too brief, I was impressed with the Abbot's unique insight into China and Chinese culture. As our nation struggles to cope with the rising power and influence of China, these are the kinds of insights and perspectives we will need in order to understand what motivates China's leaders.

The Abbot's visit to the United States, specifically, Alabama, New York, and Washington, DC, was facilitated by Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich, the president of the United States Sports Academy. The Academy is a unique degree-granting institution of higher education, focused primarily on sports management, sports medicine, and sports education. In fact, Abbot Shi Yongxin recently received an honorary degree from the United States Sports Academy to coincide with the launch of a co-operative agreement between the Temple and the Academy to teach Shao Lin Kung Fu in various locations around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Abbot and the other monks of the Shao Lin Temple—as well as the parallel efforts of the United States Sports Academy—to use their teachings to help foster international peace and understanding deserve our deepest appreciation and respect. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending Abbot Shi Yongxin and his colleagues for their outstanding work, and wishing them a safe and pleasant journey back home to China.

### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT WEST

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Albert Caswell wrote the following tribute to my constituent,

Scott West, who was injured while serving the United States in Iraq.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN

Go West Young Man!

Scott You are but The Very Best Young Man, as you are nothing less Young Man!

As oh how our Nation You So Bless Young Man!

A Brave Heart who went off to War . . .

Who so walked through The Valley of Death, all so our Freedom could be insured!

A Patriot who gave his most precious of all gifts, his legs! But came back home with far much more!

A Heroes Hero . . . This Army Man . . .

Such Strength In Honor . . . As such a Magnificent Hero, before us now so stands!

Who can defeat terror and death, who with but only his courage left . . . to new heights so ran!

For his new battle has just begun,

From Sun-up to Sunset, as This Magnificent Heroes quest shall never be done!

For there is no quit, for This Champion Is! Is the stuff of which movies are made of my son!

Just look at His Heart, Just look into His Eyes!

For in This Splendid Man of Courage and Faith, you'll find No Missouri Compromise!

He's not giving up! He's not giving in! As before us, The True Fine Definition of Where Courage so Lies!

And our time here upon this Earth, is but such a short time's worth!

Most people lead such useless lives, for only those of such splendid faith . . . shall so to Heaven rise!

As they teach us, as they so reach us . . . the ones in our Lord's Heart who so come first!

For We All must Walk This Road of Life,

Could we, in such dark moments in time . . . to somehow the courage find, as Scott to not think twice?

With head up high, with no pity to find . . . how we love you Scott! As to our World You bring Your Light!

Our Country Tis Thee, this our Sweet Land of Liberty . . .

Where our fine Nation, was so built upon such Heroic Heroes all throughout her history!

Go West Young Man, You Are America's Best Young Man . . . if I have a son, I pray like you he'd be!

Dedicated to Scott West and his family, and all those like them. Who teach us so much!

May our Lord Bless you, and he will!

### HONORING NEW YORK STATE SENATOR MARC COPPOLA

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform the House of the effective and faithful service in the New York State Senate of a great son of North Buffalo, New York State Senator Marc A. Coppola.

Marc Coppola's career in elective public service began with his appointment and subsequent election to the Buffalo Common Council's Delaware District seat in 2000. In that capacity, Marc and his office staff devel-

oped a reputation as one of the most effective and efficient constituent service operations in city hall. Constituents from throughout the city came to know that their problems and concerns could be addressed in Councilman Coppola's office.

In 2004, following an election cycle that saw the Common Council successfully downsized from 13 to 9 members, Marc was chosen by his council colleagues to serve as Majority Leader of the Common Council. Marc's leadership resulted in a number of important reforms in city hall and opened up city government to the people in greater numbers than ever before. I recall watching sessions of the Common Council in those days—I began my career as a Buffalo Councilman back in the 1980s—and I remember being struck by the professionalism that Marc displayed in serving as floor leader for the council at that time. Gone was the infighting and the grandstanding that marked floor debates years ago; Marc's steady hand and patient leadership brought dignity and honor to that legislative body.

Early in the year, after the election of then-Senator Byron Brown to the office of Mayor of the City of Buffalo, Marc Coppola won a special election as State Senator. In only several months in office, Marc developed a formidable record in the State. As a veteran of the New York State Legislature myself, I know well how partisan that institution can be, and as a Democratic senator in a Republican-dominated Senate, Marc demonstrated time and again his ability to reach across the aisle and work with the party in power. In so doing, Marc was able to see important legislation pass and become enacted into law, and he was able to best represent his constituents in Buffalo, Tonawanda, Grand Island and Niagara Falls.

Although Marc won't be returning to Albany in January 2007, the impact of his brief service in Albany will be felt long after his senatorial career concludes. The people of Buffalo and Western New York were well served by Marc Coppola, and as a young leader in our area, his service to our community is not complete. My personal best wishes go out to Marc, his wife Denise and their three sons, and I hope that you, Mr. Speaker, will join with me in extending to the Coppola family our best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. FRANK LUCAS ON BECOMING THE CHAN- CELLOR OF FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHI- TECTS

### HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my good friend Mr. Frank Lucas on becoming the Chancellor of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

Frank founded LS3P Associates Ltd. in 1963 and built the firm to its present level of success where it employs over 160 people in Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina and Charlotte, Raleigh, and Wilmington, North Carolina. LS3P Associates Ltd. provides architecture, interior architecture, and land planning